3/10/77

Dear Jon,

Thanks for the clips, especially the Black Panther and Freed, and for the call. Sorry I was not here so I could have filled you in. I was deposing a pair of former FBI agents or preparing to do the next pair. Rather Jim was and I was helping.

If the phone stays quiet a few minutes I'll give you a little about the committee. I will want to take in the evening news with all the Washington insanities. I was on the edge of it yesterday. Didn't know it until my ride phoned to say let's go. It took him 30-45 minutes to get out of his parking place and go two block (air, not crazy streets). He was 2-3 blocks from a second one.

Two of the "new" and "sensational" committee operations are not new to you or my readers. One, JFK, is the Odio story. The other, MLK, is the Milteer story. On the latter there has been recent work by Dan Christensem, who writes for Miami magazine. The investigator, if you'll excuse the express, is Gateon Fonzi, who did nothing good with the Schweiker committee. Earlier he was with or was editor of Greater Philadelphia mag. There he launched one of the earlier disinformations (may have been sheer incompetence) on the timing of the shots, esp. when Connaly was hit. We've never spoken.

Although Stokes appears not to have ruled it out Sprague says they will not call Jimmy Ray. Maybe Jerry.

Ray has not fired Jim Lesar but he has a new Nashville lawyer. He was been in the shadows for a long time. He was not just hired a week ago, as he said. He has a reputation that is not good. He also is a far-right extremist. One not sympathetic with us says Nazi. That is probably a little far but also maybe not too far. If you have a good stringer in Nashville I'm sure there are court records and court-wise anti-racists who might have a line for you. His behavior in this case has been dubious at best. Jack Kershaw, offices on Leland and Dodge, some phone for both.

As I told you long ago, this committee was created from bullshit. It reincarnated also from bullshit with a little plagiarism. Not a good prospect for truth.

The word in Washington is that they can't make it. No reporter has giveb me any other opinion and I know of no contrary one from any reporter to anyone else.

When you are back I'd appreciate it if you would be alert to any criticism of or threats, direct of indirect, against Jim Lesar. I heard one today. I suspect you hear from those who would know from their own associations. Pretty nasty business. Not personal threats - professional.

Sprague's former assistant appointed to be staff director by Gonzalez has returned to his Florida law practise. He'd expected to.

Best,